

Education

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Proposed Changes For Secondary Schools

The Northwest Accrediting Association is requiring an increase in the number of minutes each student will be in class beginning with the 1987-88 school year. The State Board of Education is considering increasing the number of required classes needed for graduation and this will increase the total number of credits needed for a diploma. Junior high school curriculum changes approved by the Clark County Board of School Trustees, are now being reviewed in accordance with the developed plan. There are national study committees who are discussing a number of other aspects of public education which may have an impact on the way that education will be provided our students for future years. If it appears that these are the times for transition for secondary education, then the assumption may very well be correct.

The Clark County School District must, in the months ahead, develop study groups and participate with the State Board of Education as we begin to address some of the

'current issues' facing education for the 21st century. To accomplish this task, teachers and administrators have not developed an attitude of let's see what happens and then we will react. There are groups of educators even today researching specific topics which may impact upon education, delving into research reports discussing options and preparing to make recommendations to appropriate agencies.

Committee Work

One such committee is chaired by Ralph Cadwallader, who is the Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education. The Clark County Classroom Teacher's Association has identified teachers who will be working with Cadwallader and other school level administrators in reviewing the increase in the length of the school day as mandated by the Northwest Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

Such a task is formidable. There are countless segments of this problem which must be reviewed.

Most importantly there are two divisions of schools which must be included, one being the junior high school program and the other the senior high school program. To guarantee that all grades and courses are treated fairly, two subcommittees have been organized and are chaired by Ray Morgan, Principal of Bonanza High School, and Don Eldfrick, principal of Kenny Guinn Jr. High School. Again, teachers and administrators are working together to identify issues and make recommendations. While the end result will not be known for a few weeks, there is a positive situation already occurring. Information involving this change will be provided to teachers, counselors, and administrators. The discussion topics will be recorded and this information offered to the school community. There will be an opportunity for an open meeting where parents and interested lay citizens may come and express their opinions. A plan has been carefully developed and will be used in finalizing any recommendations which may be made to the Clark County Board of School Trustees.

All of this suggests that Clark County is not "playing ostrich" with the educational programs to be offered in the years ahead, nor is the district going to have only a few individuals make recommendations or suggest changes. Teachers, administrators, and the community will now sit down together, review the requirements, look at options which are available, discuss the issues which are related to any proposed implemented changes, and arrive at a means of handling change in

"THE REPORT CARD"

Counselor's Night

Yvonne Atkinson



The Parent Advisory Committee on Education (PACE) in conjunction with Yvonne Atkinson, Clark County Board of School Trustee, is sponsoring a counselor's night on March 10 to discuss items regarding: 1. Academic Achievement 2. Scholarship 3. Parent Participation 4. Tutoring 5. Student Activities and various methods of disseminating the information to interested parents and students.

In addition, plans are being finalized regarding a one-day seminar and free lunch for parents and students who are interested in academic achievement within the Clark County School District and advance career opportunities. More information will be made available in the very near future.

Parents interested in joining PACE, call: 646-4544.

NAACP ACT-SO program to hold meeting Mar. 15

The Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) program sponsored by the NAACP will hold an orientation meeting on March 15 at the Westside Public Library located at 1402 North "D" Street at 11:00 A.M.

It is a pleasure to watch such a committee at work and know that every group represented has expertise and can aid in this difficult change process.

Outcome

Yvonne Atkinson has so often said that together we can make a difference. This committee shows that truly, together people can make a difference. Their task is to overcome problems, resolve issues, or strengthen an educational program designed for the youth of this county.

All high school aged students and counselors are invited to attend. Students who have talents in the performing arts, humanities, sciences or visual arts will have an opportunity to win thousands of dollars in prize monies. This is an opportunity that should not be passed over.

Contact Lloyd Henderson or Bernard Hamilton at 796-0022 or 646-1662.

CCSD To Donate Obsolete Textbooks

The Clark County School District will give obsolete textbooks to nonprofit organizations and other school districts now through March 7 and to the general public from March 3 through March 7.

The books are available in the district's General Supply Warehouse at 4212 Eucalyptus Ave., Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance to the area is at the rear of the supply warehouse number one at the southeast corner of the building.

It is the responsibility of those selecting books to transport them as warehouse personnel will not deliver any books.

Lee Bennett Hopkins to visit local schools

Acclaimed children's poet and anthologist Lee Bennett Hopkins will visit several Clark County public schools March 18 and 19, teaching students and sharing his love of poetry.

Hopkins, a former elementary schoolteacher, gained national prominence after he authored numerous poetry books, anthologies and novels. His visit to Las Vegas is under the sponsorship of the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries, a group devoted to increasing book readership and usage of public libraries.

The noted author plans visits as follows to area schools:

March 18, 10 a.m. — Kit Carson Sixth Grade Center

March 18, 1 p.m. —

Madison Sixth Grade Center

March 19, 10 a.m. — John S. Park Elementary School

March 19, 1 p.m. — Sunrise Acres Elementary School

The author will also visit the Flamingo Library at 7:30 p.m. on March 18 where he will conduct a presentation for parents and educators aimed at preparing them to become better poetry teachers. This event will be held in the library auditorium. Afterward, Hopkins will be available for one-on-one discussion and to sign autographs.

Student poems inspired by Hopkins' visit will be later compiled into a printed anthology by the Friends.

Said Hopkins of his work, "I am a piper of poetry. If it were within my power, I would introduce it to every child. Poetry can work with any grade and any age level. It can meet the interests and abilities of anyone — anywhere — from the gifted to the most reluctant reader."

Hopkins, who taught elementary school for six years in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, is a graduate of Kean College. He also obtained a professional diploma in Education from Hunter College and a Master of Science Degree from Bank Street College of Education. Hopkins currently resides in Albany, New York.

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